Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1549 - April 20, 2007

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1549 with a release date of Friday, April 20th, 2007 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

The space adventure of KE7KDP nears an end as his QSO total continues to mount. Also, a high seas rescue radio down-under and the FCC says it only wants opposition comments on two requests for reconsideration that ask Morse testing be restored. We try to sort this one out on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1549 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: THE KE7KDP SPACE ADVENTURE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Dr. Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, may go down in the ham radio history books as the most popular space tourist to ever grace the Amateur Radio bands. He has been a big hit with everyone with whom he has held a QSO. Amateur Radio Newsline producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has been following the mission from our newsroom in Los Angeles:

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Space tourist Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, turned out to be one of the most active ham radio operators to visit the International Space Station. Not only was he involved in several on-orbit scientific experiments, he also took time to share his space adventure by ham radio with school children around the world. One of his first contacts using the space stations NA1SS ham gear was April 12th with Fairborn High School in the city of Fairborn, Ohio. Those students had some interesting questions for the intrepid space traveler:

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Actual contact audio - hear it by downloading the audio version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

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When he wasn't talking to schools, Dr. Simonyi used his ham radio airtime to give some high flying DX contacts to radio amateurs on the ground. This QSO with Dr. Simonyi again operating as NA1SS took place when he connected

with Zach Schrempp, KM7I. KE7KDP was flying over
Schrempp's home town of Bothell, Washington when the two made contact:

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KM7I / KE7KDP QSO audio, Hear it by downloading
the audio version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

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A few days later we got to ask KM7I his feelings
about Dr. Simonyi's dedication to ham radio while on-orbit:

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KM7I: "I think it is great that Dr. Simonyi is
operating the ham radio equipment while on orbit,
both for casual and school contacts. The ARISS
ham radio school contact program is an excellent
experience for many people around the world to
learn more about life in space, and it's great that he is participating in
 it."

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But KM7I was not the only one that Dr. Simonyi
contacted from orbit during that pass. Heres a
condensed version of several other QSO's:

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Actual contact audio - hear it by downloading the
audio version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

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All in all, it sounds as if Charles Simonyi,
KE7KDP, not only fulfilled his dream of flying in
space but has put space into the hamshack of
anyone who tuned in. And for that a lot of folks here on Earth say thanks.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill
Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the studio in Los Angeles.

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Depending on when you hear this newscast, Dr.
Simonyi will either be on his way back from his
space adventure or already landed. We say
"welcome home and a job well done. A complete
wrap up on Charles Simonyi's trip to the ISS is
on-line at www.charlesinspace.com (ARNewsline

with audio supplied by KM7I and the ARISS Telebridge Archive)

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RESCUE RADIO: VK RADIO ENTHUSIAST SAVES TWO IN THE PACIFIC

A radio hobbyist in Australia is credited with saving the lives of two men battling treacherous seas. This, during a day-long Good Friday ordeal in the Pacific Ocean. Roobert Broomhead, VK3KRB, reports::

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The Port Macquarie News and the Sydney Morning Herald are reporting how a radio enthusiast helped save two sailors stranded in wild seas off Newcastle in V-K-2.

Bob Wilson and his friend Mike Ross were sailing from Queensland to Sydney in when their boats propeller broke off and jammed against the rudder. This left the vessel stranded nearly 200 kilometers off the coast with no way for Wilson and Ross to control its speed or direction.

Enter Harold Ralston. Ralston was out in his shed about 6.30am on Good Friday when his 25-year-old maritime radio, which he bought for $50 on eBay a year ago, crackled with a plea from an operator on a stranded boat:

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Ralston: "I turned the radios oni¿½I heard the boat calling for Foster Tuncurry Coastal Patrol, or anyone who could hear himï¿½he called for 3 or 4 minutes."

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Ralston is not a ham. In North America he might best be called a Utility Station monitoring hobbyist. As a part of his monitoring he listens to the coastal marine channels. And when he heard the call for assistance, he knew exactly what to do:

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Ralston: "No one responded so I replied to himï¿½.He came back to me straight away and told me that his predicament and wanted to pass a message on to Foster Tuncurry Coastal Patrol because he was overdue. So I took the particulars of what happened to his boat which was particularly serious in that his propeller shaft had come loose from the gearbox and lodged against the rudder and he did not have any measure of propulsion and he could not steer the boat. So I

relayed that to the Foster Tuncurry Coastal Patrol and the Port Macquarie Coastal Patrol and that's what started the ball rolling.

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Newcastle Water Police responded to the call for help. They soon reached the stricken vessel and began an eight-hour towing mission back to Port Macquarie. The rescue was completed when the two ships reached port at 7am on Easter Saturday. That was about 24 hours after Wilson and Ross put out their call for help that was heard and answered by now rescue radio hero, Harold Ralston.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Robert Broomhead, VK3KRN, of the WIA National News repotting from Australia.

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The two mariners have called Ralston a hero. Their boat is berthed in port and news reports say that it will stay there until it has been repaired. (WIA News)

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MORSE: HOSTAGE SAILORS USE CW TO KEEP IN TOUCH

One of the British seamen held hostage in Iran has told how they used Morse code to stay in touch with one another while imprisoned. Felix Scerri, VK4FUQ, reports:

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Able Seaman Simon Massey revealed they developed a system of 'knocking in and knocking out' during their first week of solitary confinement.

He said: "It was like keeping a mental register - checking off the voices of comrades whenever one of them asked for a toilet break or a cigarette.

"Leading Seaman Chris Coe was next door to my cell. We would just sit here tapping out code. We'd check up on each other, say goodnight, and if we went out of the cell, we would give a little knock when we got back to let each other know we were OK.

"Just knocking with knuckles. Little things like that got us through."

The use of Morse code by prisoners was made famous in the 1962 classic film Birdman Of Alcatraz. It was also used by PoWs in Vietnam.

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The 14 men and one woman sailor were seized by Iranian warships on March 23rd. It took 13 days to secure their release. (WIA News)

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Break 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KA3ZAI simplex bulletin serving Bradenton, Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESTRUCTURING: FCC INVITES ONLY OPPOSITION COIMMENTS ON TWO MORSE RECONSIDERATION PETITIONS

Back here in the USA, we have one of the strangest stories out of Washington in a long time. It comes from the ARRL Letter which reports that the FCC has invited only opposition comments to two petitions for reconsideration on the Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235. That's the regulatory change that eliminated any Morse code examination to obtain a United States Amateur Radio license.

As expected, there have been several Petitions for Reconsideration filed. One petition calls on the FCC to reinstate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. The second cites problems with the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System and seeks to have the Commission reopen the proceeding for an additional round of comments.

Now the FCC is essentially saying that communications to the agency in support of either petition is not welcome, Instead, the only folks it wants to hear from are those who oppose the reconsideration efforts. These opposition filings are due at the FCC no later than April 27th with a reply comment date 10 days later. Both petitions are at the FCC website at http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_docum ente18808553
and the other
at
http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_docum ente18808784.
(ARRL Letter)

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RESCUE RADIO: AMERICAN RED CROSS REFUSES TO

NEGOCIATE ON BACKGROUND CHECKS OF HAMS

The American Red Cross has told the ARRL that it will not back away from its demand that ham radio volunteers submit to a background check by a third party contractor. A check that that could include a examination of that persons finances.

According to a news item on the ARRL website, a meeting between the League and Red Cross officials to discuss the matter lead to am impasse. One with the Red Cross holding firm to its position on the right to have its contractor conduct a background check that could include personal finance check if it deems it to be necessary and refusing to modify any aspect of it stance.

In recent days, a growing number of hams have reconsidered volunteering their services to the Red Cross because of the potential of having their personal finances made a part of such a background check. They say that they are freely giving of their time to assist the relief agency and should not be subject to this level of lifestyle scrutiny.

As a result of the American Red Cross intransigence on the matter the ARRL has reiterated its earlier recommendation. While not singling out the American Red Cross by name, the League suggests that its members carefully review any consent document that permits a private organization to conduct a background investigation on that person.

The full story is on-line at League's website. Its in cyberspace at www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/04/16/100/?nc=1 (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO NOTED IN SKYWARN ARTICLE

Some really good words about ham radio can be found in the April 13th issue of NOAA Magazine in a lengthy story about the Skywarn program.

The piece written by Editor Julie Bedford notes that for more than 35 years, the Skywarn program has been helping the National Weather Service gather critical information from the field before, during and even after severe weather events. It also notes that nearly 280,000 trained volunteer storm spotters many of whom are radio amateurs help keep their local communities safe. This, by providing reports of severe and hazardous weather and goes into local training programs conducted by the National Weather

service in cooperation with local Amateur Radio clubs.

The complete article is on-line at www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag226.htm. In our opinion, its well worth your time to read. (W7VZD)

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ENFORCEMENT: DOD COMPLAINS ABOUT INTERFERENCE TO RADAR FROM HAMS

If you own and operate a UHF repeater near Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts or Beale Air Force Base in California you could eventually be asked to take it off the air by the Department of Defense. This, because it is causing interference to the military's PAVE PAWS radar system that you are likely unaware of. But the ARRL has been made aware of the situation and says it is working with the D-o-D to try to eliminate the interference so that the affected machines can remain in operation. Repeater owner operators in the affected areas should read the complete story on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org (ARRL)

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ENFORCEMENT: COPPER THEFTS COST FOUR LIVES

Four people have been electrocuted in recent days after trying to steal copper cable that they apparently thought was not in use.

DesignLine.com reports that two New Hampshire men were buried last week after they were electrocuted while taking copper wire from an unoccupied power plant in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. The bodies were found lying alongside bolt cutters and coils of copper wire. According to law enforcement authorities, the men did not have permission to be on the property.

Their deaths followed the electrocution fatalities in Arkansas of two people attempting to strip copper wire from utility poles. According to news reports, the price of copper has skyrocketed driven partially by the demand for copper for telecommunications transmission. One report says that the problem has gotten so out of hand that the Arkansas state government has passed three bills that crack down on the theft of scrap metal.

Despite continued upgrades to fiber optic systems, copper is still in heavy use for telecommunications systems, worldwide and the thieves know it. (RF Design, CGC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: NWS HONORS HAM FOR HIS SKYWARN LINKED REPEATERS

A note of congratulations to Charlie Campbell, KC5EZZ, who has been named to receive the 2007 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's 2007 Environmental Hero Award.

Campbell was nominated by the meteorologists at the San Angelo Texas N-W-S office. This, in recognition of the work he has done in linking repeaters to serve the SKYWARN program in his area.

KC5EZZ was scheduled to receive his award on April 24th in Washington D.C.. A few days earlier his friends from the San Angelo National Weather Service office held a Pizza get-together in his honor. (AA5PK)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: ARRL 2007 GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the ARRL 2007 Great Lakes Division Convention will be held on September 22nd at the Sheraton Independence Hotel in Independence, Ohio. Seminars will feature top-name speakers including Bob Heil, K9EID, and Chip Margelli, K7JA, from Heil Sound. There will also be a DX Seminar will be moderated by OPDX Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW, with guests that include Bernie McClenny W3UR of "The Daily DX and Weekly DX" newsletters and John Papay K8YSE of the Swains Island operation. For further information on this one, please visit www.2007gldc.com on the World Wide Web. (E-Mail)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: HAMVENTION 2007: "LOCAL CLUBS: THE HEART OF HAM RADIO"

Planners have announced that the theme for the 2007 Dayton Hamvetion is Local Clubs: The Heart of Ham Radio. They say that the Hamvention wants to acknowledge the support that local ham radio clubs around the world provide to their communities and to amateur radio. To that end there are some special plans for clubs at this years Dayton gathering. General Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F, says to keep an eye on www.hamvention.org for the latest developments.

Hamvention 2007 will be held May 18th to the 20th at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. We hope to see many of you there. (Hamventionï¿½)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: EMCOMMERST 2007 IN RENO MAY 4 - 6

And its only a few days until the doors open at
Emcommwest 2007. Don Carlson, KQ6FM is in Reno, Nevada, with more:

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EMCOMMWEST 2007 IS COMING TO THE BIGGEST LITTLE
CITY IN THE WORLD, RENO NEVADA MAY 4TH THROUGH
THE 6TH. ONCE AGAIN HAMS FROM ALL OVER THE
COUNTRY WILL GATHER IN RENO FOR THE ANNUAL ARRL
SPECIALTY CONVENTION, BASED ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

THIS YEAR'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER WILL BE PR GURU AND
HELLO CAMPAIGN CREATOR ALLEN PITTS, W1AGP FROM
ARRL HQ IN NEWINGTON. ALLEN WILL ALSO DO A FORUM
ON BEING AN ARES PIO. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE
FORUMS ON HOSPITAL SUPPORT, WORKING WITH EOC'S
AND FEMA, ICS TRAINING, BUILDING COMM VANS, ATV AND MUCH MORE.

THERE WILL BE VE TESTING, AND A NEW HAM FORUM TO
GET THE NEW HAMS STARTED RIGHT. SATURDAY MORNING
A HUGE SWAP MEET, AND A SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET,
FEATURING 2 GUEST SPEAKERS ï¿½ HENRY FEINBERG,
K2SSQ WHO GAVE ET HIS COMMUNICATOR IN THE MOVIE,
AND DENNIS MOCHENBACKER, K7BV, NOTED CONTESTER
NOW WITH YAESU RADIO. THERE WILL BE A VENDOR HALL
AND LOTS OF DISPLAY COMMUNICATION VEHICLES TOO.

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, CHECK THE
WEBSITE AT WWW DOT EMCOMMWEST.ORG. OR EMAIL INFO@EMCOMMWEST .ORG.

FOR THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE. I'M DON CARLSON, KQ6FM IN RENO.
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More about Emcommwest is on line at www.emcommwest.org (KQ6FM)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio
amateur. From the United States of America, We
are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the
world from our only official website at
www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the
volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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SCIENCE HISTORY: MORE EINSTEIN LETTERS MADE PUBLIC BY CALTECH

The 10th volume of letters written by or sent to mathematics genius Albert Einstein have been made public under the auspices of the Einstein Papers Project at the California Institute of Technology." The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein - Volume 10" contains letters penned by Einstein between 1909 and 1920.

According to Caltech, the letters discuss many scientific issues, including his association with physicists in Europe and efforts to further confirm his theory of general relativity. But volume 10 also contains letters focusing on personal matters, such as the state of his marriage and his relationship with his sons. He also discusses the challenges he faced with his newly acquired celebrity status.

The volume was published for Caltech by Princeton University Press. For more information, visit www.einstein.caltech.edu on the World-Wide-Web. (Press Release)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: L-ION BATTERIES FOR YOUR CAR

Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries hopes to start mass production of lithium ion batteries for automotive use in 2010. These rechargeable batteries would be sold to auto makers for use in electric and gas-electric hybrid vehicles.

Sanyo Electric which supplies nickel metal hydride batteries to Honda and Ford is also developing the technology. Also getting into the act are electronics conglomerate Hitachi, car battery manufacturer Yuasa Corp and electronic parts maker Murata Manufacturing.

Lithium ion batteries are more compact than nickel metal hydride batteries, contributing to fuel efficiency. But safety concerns such as overheating remain and the technology is still considered too expensive by many. (Power News)

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OPRERATING EVENTS: THE 2007 SBMS 2 GHZ AND UP CONTEST MAY 12 - 13

On the air, the 2007 San Bernardino Microwave Society 2GHz and Up Club Contest runs from 6 a.m. on May 12 to 8 p.m. May 13 local time. This is a club competition in which members tally up their scores and add them with other members' scores to

make up a club score. Logs go via regular mail only to Pat Coker, N6RMJ, 40916 179th Street, Lancaster CA 93535. For more information, rules and past scores see the www.ham-radio.com/sbms (SBMS)

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OPRERATING EVENTS: ARMAD HAM IT UP FOR THE TROOPS - MAY 26th

The next ARMAD will "Ham It Up For The Troops" operating event takes on May 26, beginning at 9 a.m. Eastern time ARMAD has conducted this special event for the past three years. It's primary purpose is to let those that sacrifice know that we support them. More about ARMAD and the "Ham It Up For The Troops" event is on line at www.armad.net (ARMAD)

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OPRERATING EVENTS: INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY

Several U-K special event stations will be on the air April 28th to celebrate International Marconi Day and hams world-wide are invited to make contact. These stations will operate on or close to sites where Marconi carried out experiments or where Marconi equipment was used prior to his death in 1937.

Although the event is not a contest, participants can qualify for award certificates by contacting certain stations. Further information can be found on the web at www.gb4imd.org.uk. (GB2RS)

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OPRERATING EVENTS: SUBMARINES ON THE AIR

The weekend of April 28th and 29th is the Submarines-On-The-Air Special Event. There will be many submarine based stations on the air using SSB and C-W on 80 through 10 meters. A special certificate will be available for working 10 of the boats. See http://w0oog.50megs.com/ for more information.   (QRZ.com)

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DX

In D-X, the Swains Island N-8-S DX-pedition made over 115,000 contacts before going Q-R-T on April 15th. An on-line log check is available at www.yt1ad.info/n8s/log.html where you just put in your call to see if you are verified as having worked the operation. Initial QSL cards for N8S shoyuld be going out in about a month. That same group should be back on the air from Samoa as 5W8AA as you hear this report.

DL9MWG will be active from Malta as 9H3RT from
April 18th through to the 11th of May. Activity
will be on HF, mainly CW. QSL as directed on the air.

And PA5CW will be active portable YB9 from Bali from April 25th to
May 10th . QSL this one to his Callbook address.

DL2GAC expects to be active from the Solomon
Islands until the 25th of April. No word on what
call sign he will be using or his schedule of operation as of this time

Lastly, DS4DRE, is currently active portable from
Hong Island. Word is that he will be there until
the 30th of June. Activity is on 80 through 10
meters on CW and SSB. QSL via his Callbook address.

(Above from various DX sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE MIT BIOSATELLITE PROGRAM - YOUR NAME IN SPACE

And finally this week, for hams and others who
cannot afford the million-dollar price tag
attached to space tourism, there is an
alternative. Just have your name and call go
into orbit. Amateur Radio Newsline's Evi Simons tells us how:

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Hams will be happy to learn that at least their
names and callsigns may be able to travel into
space for a much smaller fee than that paid by
Charles Simmonyi, KE7KDP. It cost him $25
million dollars to visit the I-S-S, but for the
rest of us about $140 is a lot more
reasonable. And thanks to a group of
Massachusetts Institute of Technology students
working on the design of a small research
spacecraft to simulate the gravity found on Mars,
about 25,000 of us might be able to go into Earth
orbit, at least vicariously.

For the past five years, students from MIT's Mars
Gravity Biosatellite Program have worked together
with others from around the world to create a
satellite to study how Martian gravity will
affect mammals. They hope their work will pave
the way for future manned missions to Mars where
gravity is about one-third that here on
Earth. And to help fund the project they are
selling space on the bird for personal messages.

The entry price is just $35 for one square
centimeter of space. There will be at least

100,000 square centimeters of space available, but in order to make the name legible donors will need to buy at least four. That adds up to a mere $140 which is about the street price of a new 2 meter mobile radio.

If you decide to buy in, your name, call and/or logo will be printed on aluminum panels and attached to the spacecraft. The satellite will launch sometime in 2010 and remain on-orbit for 5 weeks. And after that you will be able to say that at least your name and call made it into space.

I'm Evi Simons in New York City for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The Mars Gravity Biosatellite Program is the largest known student-led spacecraft design agenda, with more than 450 student participants from universities around the world. More about it and how to buy space for your name is on-line at www.marsgravity.org (Science Daily, Science OnLine, others)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Two reminders before we go. First about our on-line poll regarding your position on the concept of Regulation by Bandwidth. To take part, take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Scroll down and watch for the word "Polls" on the left hand side of the page. Then click on the box that is closest to your view. As soon as you cast your vote you will see the current results.

Also, the nominating season for this years Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Any radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in all 50 United States, plus Puerto Rico and all 13 Canadian Provinces can qualify. Full details and nominating forms are

on our special website at www,yhoty.org. Also see the Vertex-Standard sponsored ad on page 8 of the March issue of QST Magazine.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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